Remarks/Argument

By the present amendment, claims 29-34 have been cancelled and claim 35 has been amended. Support for amended claim 35 can be found at at least p. 2, line 11 to p. 3, line 26 of the present application.

In response to the Office Action dated October 14, 2008, the Applicants hereby elect, with traverse, the invention of Group I and the species IGFBP3 and an $a_v\beta_5$ integrin. It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-23 read on the elected invention.

The Applicants respectfully traverse the restriction requirement regarding: (1) the restriction of claims 1-23 to the single species of IGFBP3 and an $a_v\beta_5$ integrin; (2) the restriction between Groups VI and VII; and (3) the restriction between Group I and Groups VI-VII.

With regard to the different IGFBPs, the Office Action argues that restriction is necessary because each IGFBP requires distinct structural components resulting in distinct culture effects. Applicants respectively submit that the different IGFBP species are related and are not independent of each other because the IGFBPs recited in claim 8 can be used in a culture medium to: (1) eliminate or at least reduce the requirement for exogenous components, such as serum and feeder cells; and (2) promote propagation of keratinocytes for subsequent use in skin growth and regeneration. Accordingly, it would place no further burden on the Examiner to examine the present application with respect to IGFBPs other than IGFBP3.

With regard to the subject matter of claim 14, the Office Action argues that restriction is necessary because each integrin requires distinct structural

components resulting in distinct culture effects. Applicants respectively submit that the different integrin receptor species recited in claim 14 are related and are not independent of each other because: (1) the cell culture medium of claim 1 can comprise vitronectin or a vitronectin fragment; and (2) either an $a_v\beta_5$ integrin or an $a_v\beta_3$ integrin can bind to a vitronectin fragment. Accordingly, it would place no further burden on the Examiner to examine the present application with respect to an $a_v\beta_3$ integrin.

The Office Action also restricts the present invention to keratinocytes (*i.e.*, Groups VI) and keratinocyte progenitor cells (*i.e.*, Group VII). Applicants respectively submit that keratinocytes and keratinocyte progenitor cells are related and are not independent of each other because keratinocytes and keratinocyte progenitor cells can be used for skin growth and regeneration according to the present invention. Accordingly, it would place no further burden on the Examiner to examine the present application with respect to keratinocytes and keratinocyte progenitor cells.

Additionally, the Office Action restricts the present invention to a mammalian cell culture medium (*i.e.*, Group I) and a method for delivering keratinocytes (*i.e.*, Groups VI) and keratinocyte progenitor cells (*i.e.*, Group VII). Applicants respectively submit that the inventions of Group I and Groups VI-VII are related and are not independent of each other because: (1) the mammalian cell culture medium can be used to culture keratinocytes and/or keratinocyte progenitor cells; and (2) the cultured keratinocytes and/or keratinocyte progenitor cells can be sprayed onto the skin of an individual to facilitate skin regeneration. Accordingly, it would place no

further burden on the Examiner to examine the present application with respect to a mammalian cell culture medium and a method for delivering keratinocytes or keratinocyte progenitor cells.

An early action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in the fees for this matter to our Deposit Account No. 20-0090

Respectfully submitted,

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